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The Wildlife Society News

Thomas R. Evans, Editor
Dept. of Conservation, Springfield, Ill.

Number 69
May, 1959

Following is a series of articles dealing with the future of The Wildlife Society and its potential as a vital force in advancing the profession of wildlife management. The subjects discussed have been presented previously in *The News* and received considerable attention at the annual meeting in New York City. As editor, I cannot urge you too strongly to read and study these presentations and pass on *your* opinions to the officers and Council. This is *your* Society. It cannot hope to serve its members adequately if the members do not express themselves as to what the Society should be and do. Please give the Council the benefit of your views. I suggest you send your comments to Dr. Charles Dambach. If you wish to have them carried in a future issue of *The News*, send me a copy and state definitely that you do or do not want them printed. Let's have a good response to items which follow.

The Editor

ARE WE MEETING THE CHALLENGE?

The Wildlife Society was officially organized in February, 1937. At that time, there were 252 charter members out of a total of about 300 active members in the Society. The current membership list totals approximately 2,600 members and includes many of the charter members, most of whom are still professionally active. These statistics bear witness to both the youth and marked growth of the wildlife profession and its Society.

The profession and its Society have grown in stature as well as in numbers during these years. There was a total of 107 pages in the entire first volume of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. There are 460 pages in Volume 22 completed in 1958. The Society now also publishes *Wildlife Monographs*, the *Newsletter*, and special publications. The techniques manual planned for publication in 1959 is an example. Five committees comprised of 28 members, the editor of the *Journal* and the officers carried on the work of the Society in 1938. During 1958, 15 committees and more than 100 members served to carry out the work of this organization. Over the years, more than 300 members have served on committees or other assignments. Active membership dues of $5.00 per year were established on January 1, 1938 and raised to $6.00 effective with the 1956 membership year.

The challenges to the Society so ably stated by W. L. McAtee in launching the first two numbers of the Journal (pp. 45–46) have been fulfilled only in part. Increasing numbers of members have expressed concern that the Society is not functioning as do some professional organizations in enhancing the stature of the profession and the well-being of its members. Some are concerned that the membership is not prepared to provide the kind of financial support necessary to this kind of professional leadership. Others are content to keep things as they are. The Minnesota Section of the Society has prepared a set of recommendations which embodies, it is believed, the basic issues to be considered. These were presented in the *Newsletter* last year. These recommendations would involve changes in Society organization and financing and were the subject of major concern of the Council during the past year. The proposals were reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in New York and discussed in open debate at the Annual Society Meeting. There was agreement at this meeting that the issues before the Society should be placed before the entire membership through the *Newsletter*. You will accordingly find elsewhere in this issue statements concerning these proposals by Jack Berryman, Winston Mair, Starker Leopold, and Gustav Swanson. Each member is urged to study these views, to discuss them with fellow members, and to use the *Newsletter* as a forum for expressing his own opinions on the recommendations presented.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has these suggestions under study. It needs, however, the guidance of the membership in formulating proposed changes in the Bylaws to implement those recommendations which seem to be in the best interest of the Society. The proposed Bylaw changes will be submitted to the entire membership by mail ballot for approval or disapproval at a later date. It is important to discuss these issues now before they are submitted for action by ballot. You are urged to convey your ideas on this subject to other members through the *Newsletter* and to the officers of the Society. You are especially urged to inform your regional representative of your views.

Charles A. Dambach
President
The Wildlife Society

TOGETHER WE STAND

Wildlife management is indeed a young science. It has progressed far beyond the hopes of 25 years ago. Almost every conservation agency now has a staff of trained management personnel, and many schools grant degrees in wildlife management. And yet, wildlife management has not achieved true professional status.

The wildlife management field now includes men of varied training and experience: all have one common goal—the management of wildlife. The vast majority look to The Wildlife Society as their professional organization. It is proper to ask whether The Society now provides the services desired by its expanded membership.

We seek public acceptance and confidence, the respect of other professions, improved pay scales and a voice in the resource affairs of the Nation and on the issues that affect our personal and professional lives. These things must be earned. Before they can be realized we must have professional stature and an organization with respect and influence. Many believe this should be a primary responsibility of The Wildlife Society. No one else will assume this responsibility—it's up to us.

To measure up, we need a paid, full time Executive Secretary to represent our interests and handle the housekeeping chores of an expanding and vigorous Society. Extending the tenure of officers is essential to program continuity. Professional standards should be developed by which professionalism can be measured, and a code of ethics adopted to assure the highest standards of conduct and performance. Extending the coverage of publication media and other services should also be considered.

This will cost money and will require a dues increase, although there are other means of increasing income now in use by similar organizations. The development of professional standards need not cause a split in the membership—on the contrary, a common denominator of training and experience can be found that will strengthen and unite our heterogeneous membership. It has been done by others. The need for a code of ethics is self evident.

A strengthened Society, performing vital services will stimulate membership and enable us to tap the full potential of the field.

While we must act with reason and judgment, there is no need for fear or pessimism in strengthening The Society and the "profession." We have recently been referred to as "second class citizens" in the family of professions. Let's try our wings and go first class!

Jack H. Berryman

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE" PROFESSIONAL

The Wildlife Society stands today at the crossroads; its objectives and means of attaining them must be more than ever before carefully considered. What do people think we are and what do they think of us, what are we and what do we want to be? Why do so many in the United States, particularly, speak of fisheries *biologists* and wildlife *technicians*? Are we or are we not basically scientists, going about the application of our science through research, management, administration, public relations and enforcement, and teaching. These are some of the questions we must consider.

There seem to be two roads we can follow —and there can be no straddling the fence. If we are to become a professional society, our objectives are not merely to press for personal gain, but rather to establish a code of ethics, qualifications for membership and the reputation in society generally for high standards of purpose and accomplishment. From these should arise public acceptance,

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leading to greater advances in the wildlife field. Professionalism, in its best sense, will mean acceptance of self-discipline, some group discipline and some responsibility to the community at large for the actions of our members.

The alternative is to remain a scientific society, to which every person with an interest in the field may belong. Such a society should have among its objectives the improvement of scholarship in the wildlife field and the improvement of general standards through information, education and exhortation. It cannot speak with too strong a voice because it lacks homogenity; it cannot discipline because it has no standards of membership; it can have a code of ethics but this must be largely the expression of a pious hope.

A prime argument against a professional society is the probable worsening of relations between university and nonuniversity trained personnel (with possible hurt to some individuals) because of restrictive membership. I cannot accept this argument as valid, for the following reasons: 1. Friction between categories of personnel can only be resolved through understanding and application of good human relations. Emasculation of a society to permit unrestricted membership cannot resolve it. 2. Nonuniversity trained personnel should be able to join the professional society, provided they show certain qualifications. This is so in professions such as legal and engineering. This is more a problem in taking up slack from the past than in dealing with the future. No one would suggest that the nonuniversity trained pioneers of the wildlife profession should be excluded. 3. If you make attainment of an objective too easy, few have any respect for it. If no effort is required to belong to The Wildlife Society it can be anticipated that some, and perhaps many, will make little effort to acquire more experience and education. Conversely, if persons do work hard and earn the right to belong to a professional society, it means something to them, as a tangible mark of accomplishment. 4. Effort is being made to raise the educational requirements (to university graduation) for enforcement personnel and conservation officers generally. At least one state has gone far in that direction already. Should not our Society provide incentive for this progressive action for the future?

Whichever way the Society goes, our objective must be to raise the standards of education, training and accomplishment in the wildlife field, and hence raise the standard of service to the public. Out of such will come recognition, trust and prestige (and we hope better pay). We should at all cost avoid exerting direct pressures designed to force our employers' hands.

W. Winston Mair, Chief
Canadian Wildlife Service

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

We all agree that The Wildlife Society should grow in stature as well as in membership. However, there are elements of disagreement in how a professional society attains stature. To achieve this end, the Minnesota Section proposes a four-point program, described in the August, 1958 issue of *Wildlife Society News*. The four principal suggestions are: 1. Employment of a full-time Executive Secretary. 2. Adoption of professional standards and classes of membership. 3. Adoption of a code of ethics. 4. Extension of the tenure of officers.

The last point—extended tenure of office—already has been accomplished, in the case of the president at least, by action of the Nominating Committee. This is a very good move, and presumably future Nominating Committees can follow suit when circumstances dictate that renomination of incumbent officers may be in the interests of the Society.

The third proposal—adoption of a code of ethics—has been accepted by the Council, and a committee has been appointed by the President to prepare such a code.

I shall limit my discussion here to the first two proposals.

Surely, having a full-time Executive Secretary is a worthy objective. But whether the Society is large enough as yet to entertain such an ambition is subject to careful scrutiny. To maintain an Executive Secretary, with office facilities, help, and a travel budget would, I imagine, require at least $15,000. This would call for doubling our dues, since the membership (now a little over 3,000) would certainly drop some with such a dues increase. It seems to me that this program is a bit tenuous with a membership as small as ours. But it is not beyond reason, and might properly be considered.

In quite a different category is proposal number 2, that "to improve prestige" The Wildlife Society adopt professional standards and classes of membership. The Society went through this phase once. From 1937, when the Society was formed, until 1951, there were two classes of members—active and associate. The Membership Committee had the difficult task of deciding, on the basis of a questionnaire, whether an applicant deserved full (Active) membership in The Society or should be merely a subscriber to the Journal (Associate). Because the training and backgrounds of wildlife workers are so diverse, it proved nearly impossible to devise equitable criteria for full membership. Adverse decisions of the committee created much dissent and unhappiness. In 1951 the Society voted to abandon stratified membership. I see no signs that the Society lost "prestige" in so doing. On the contrary, the organization has grown substantially in strength and cohesion in the past eight years. With an aggressive professional program, it can continue to grow, retaining as prerequisites for membership merely (a) interest in advancement of the profession and the Society, and (b) sponsorship of one member.

The real prestige of an organization is determined by what it does, not by the embellishment of a peck order among members.

A. Starker Leopold

SOME SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Your bylaws committee has been in existence for a year, and has considered a number of revisions, without coming as yet to any complete agreement. The response to the various proposals in this issue and following issues of *The News* will be considered by the committee in drafting bylaws revisions for the membership to vote upon, but the following are some changes which I feel we are ready to consider immediately, and which I personally would strongly recommend: 1. That the regional representatives be elected for three-year terms instead of one year as now, with the terms overlapping so that approximately 1/3 are changed each year. This is needed to provide greater continuity in the leadership of the Society. At present, the secretary serves for a two-year term, and the past president is also a member of the Council. All other members are elected annually and theoretically could all be replaced in a single year. Furthermore, that the regional representatives be ineligible to succeed themselves after serving six years, so that the same leadership does not become "frozen into office."

2. That the regional representatives be nominated by the nominating committee, rather than by ballot as at present. The regular nomination committee should have the responsibility, but should invite the participation of regional or sectional meetings where these exist. The present arrangement does not permit the kind of systematic long-range planning which should characterize the Society's leadership, but reduces the nomination and voting procedure to a type of popularity contest in which frequently dozens of names are nominated for the post in any region, and the selection of nominees is often determined by an extremely small minority of the total membership in the region.

3. Our system of Regions needs overhauling, but here I am not prepared to recommend exact changes in boundaries or numbers without further study by the committee. There are several areas, however, where more natural groupings of states and provinces have developed with their own annual conferences, than the present Regions of the Society. One Section of the Society which has held regular annual meetings for several years is urging regional recognition for their area, but such a matter can hardly be handled piecemeal. An over-all analysis is still required.

These three recommendations I believe are relatively noncontroversial, except possibly in details. There are a number of other more sweeping changes which I feel the Society is destined to make within the next few years if it is to face its challenge of representing effectively an increasingly important group of professional workers, but my approach would be to make these changes reasonably cautiously, and I suggest the above three recommendations for early action in that spirit.

Gustav A. Swanson, Chairman
Bylaws Revision Committee

HOLD EVERYTHING!

In the February issue, No. 68, page 4, we presented an item entitled "Biological Research in Conservation Report." According to this item the report was available at $0.06 per copy. It should have stated that $0.06 was the pre-publication price only. Prices as quoted in a more recent letter from the National Society for Medical Research are: individual copies, $0.25; 100 copies, $0.20 each; 500 copies, $0.12 each; 1,000 copies, $0.08 each.

Tom Evans

ings; 3 business meetings. Average attendance—59.

Social: Annual dinner dance, May, 1958.

Accomplishments: 1. Development and submission of a proposed comprehensive plan for strengthening the Society, embodying: (a) a dues increase to employ an Executive Secretary, authorized to speak and act on behalf of the Society; (b) adoption of professional standards and classes of membership; (c) adoption of a Code of Ethics; and (d) continuity of leadership.

2. A Section Bylaw revision including: (a) authority for officers to speak and act for the Section; (b) a dues increase from $0.75 to $2.00; and (c) continuity of officers.

3. Establishment of The Minnesota Award for "Outstanding contribution to the profession of wildlife management"—first conferred on Dr. George A. Selke, Minnesota Conservation Commissioner, 1958.

4. Adoption of a Code of Ethics.

5. Formal expression by the Section on important State and National legislation.

Future Plans: 1. Support of a scholarship for a worthy wildlife student. 2. A co-sponsoring agency of 1959 Midwest Wildlife Conference.

Robert L. Jensen
Secretary-treasurer

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—SOUTHEASTERN SECTION

During the past year, the Secretary's duties have consisted of the posting of official records, collection of dues, and the handling of correspondence.

The paid up membership for 1957-58 totaled 61. Since then, several memberships have been paid. President Chester Phelps appointed Arnold L. Mitchell and Bernard Carter chairmen of the Technical Game and Fish Sessions, respectively, for the Louisville meeting, October, 1958. During the year Ed Chamberlain asked the following men to serve as membership representatives for their states: Jim Jenkins, Georgia; Leslie Glasgow, Louisiana; V. F. Flyger, Maryland; Rolland Handley, Mississippi; Fred S. Barkalow, North Carolina; Gordon Brown, South Carolina; Harold Warvel, Tennessee; Henry Mosby, Virginia; William Allen, Arkansas; Dan Russell, Kentucky; Dan Speake, Alabama; Ed Chamberlain, Florida.

The following committees were appointed to remain in effect until October, 1959 by President Phelps:

Farm Game Research: D. J. Hankla, chairman. Constitutional Revision and Preparation of an Officer's Handbook, Ed Chamberlain, chairman; Water Use, H. E. Wallace, chairman; Awards Committee, Jim Jenkins, Chairman; Forest Game Research, Dr. C. W. Watson, chairman; Dove Committee, Rolland Handley, chairman.

Dan W. Speake
Secretary-treasurer

TURKEY SYMPOSIUM SUCCESSFUL

From all reports, the Wild Turkey Symposium held in Memphis, Tennessee on February 13–14 was extremely successful. Ninety-one representatives from 26 states, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and other agencies and organizations gathered here to discuss the status, management techniques and research needs of this one species of wildlife. This certainly is indicative of the great current interest in reestablishment and management of the wild turkey throughout the U.S. Judged on the basis of the many comments heard since the meeting and Len Foote's symposium summary, all the problems were thoroughly covered.

Copies of the transactions are, or will be, available from Don H. Strode, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Kentucky, at $3.00 each.

SOCIETY MEMBERS ON AFRICAN SAFARI

Two Society members are joining the ranks of the African big game hunters this summer. Bud Jackson and John Bulger, both on the National Wildlife Federation staff plan to leave on May 27 for a two months' African safari in company with Les W. Roethe of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. They expect to combine hunting with wildlife photography. Bud is Director of Field Activities for the Federation, while John is the Eastern Field Representative.

SOCIETY MEMBER HONORED

A longtime Society member was recently honored by the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association when Dr. Leslie L. Glasgow received that organization's Conservationist of the Year Award. The award was presented at the LOWA meeting held in February in Baton Rouge in conjunction with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation convention.

MINNESOTA ANNOUNCES CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

The Minnesota Civil Service Department has announced an examination for Aquatic Biologist I—Salary $4,440–$5,400 per year—open to any U.S. citizen. Placement process consists of a written test. Eligibility is based on a passing grade of 70 or better. Applications will be accepted until further notice.

As the announcement puts it, "Basic and applied research receive the attention of Minnesota fishery biologists, working under a staff of nationally recognized research authorities. Whether assigned to the new headquarters in St. Paul or at one of the many field ports around the state, fishery biologists have an unequalled opportunity to contribute their talents to a progressive fisheries management program."

Applications may be secured from the Minnesota Civil Service Department, 122 State Office Building, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND LIBRARIES

It has recently been reported that about 70 per cent of the research workers in science do not consult articles more than 5 years old (*Special Libraries*, December 1957, page 466). Since this estimate is importantly influenced by the activities of chemists and physicists, I sampled the use of references in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* for 1958 to determine how libraries are related to our field. "Articles" in my tabulation represented any citation that an author used in a bibliography, a philosophical article by Dr. C. H. D. Clarke being excluded from this count. Because not all contributors in 1958 had access to the literature of 1957, this year was excluded from the initial tabulation:

Period	*No.*	*Period*	*No.*
1612	1	1917–1926	16
1877–1886	1	1927–1936	62
1887–1896	6	1937–1946	144
1897–1906	6	1947–1956	373
1907–1916	16	Total	625

In this sample, 5 years of library resources furnished 37 per cent of the citations; 10 years, 60 per cent; 20 years, 83 per cent.

Since our field can only be said to have become organized in the 1930's, and since World War II had a depressing effect on our research activities, I would expect that the percentages given here will change a decade hence. The year-to-year list of citations since 1930 follows:

Last Digit of Year	*Number of Citations Used*		
	1930's	*1940's*	*1950's*
0	7	18	24
1	10	20	37
2	4	16	47
3	10	18	36
4	4	7	47
5	8	11	34
6	11	18	67
7	14	30	(49)
8	9	23	(4)
9	13	28	—

Joseph J. Hickey

KENYA WILD LIFE SOCIETY

During the first quarter of 1959 the Kenya Wild Life Society will publish a quarterly magazine in place of an Annual Report. The publication will be of a high quality and will include articles and photographs bearing on the conservation of East African wild life and natural resources. All members will receive free copies. At the same time every effort will be made to boost circulation to the general public both in East Africa and overseas through the normal agencies. Contributions of a factual and authoritative nature will be welcome.

Membership in the Society is available at $3.00 per year, payable January 1 each year. The Society's address is P.O. Box 20110, Nairobi, Kenya, Africa.

ARE YOU EXPLICIT?

Not long ago a water supply expert, who professed complete ignorance about fish and wildlife matters, remarked that fish and wildlife people assume too much, relative to layman understanding of this field. It is doubtful that he realized upon what fertile ground his remark had fallen. A recent experience with a newspaperman had gone a long way toward making a believer of me.

That reporter had been interviewing heads of the various offices located in the Federal Building in Trenton and, based upon the information obtained, preparing an article each week for the Sunday newspaper. Suddenly, it was my turn.

In response to his first question I replied briefly and broadly as follows: "The most important function of the Branch of River Basin Studies, in the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the biological investigation of federally planned or federally licensed projects involving the control of water; these investigations

the cause of wildlife conservation. W. C. Glazener and D. W. Lay served as section leaders for the National Wild Turkey Symposium in Memphis, Tennessee, in February, 1959.

Further Needs of the Society

Members of the Society on university faculties, in state conservation agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and students in colleges have shown a sincere interest in the Society. However, Oklahoma reports an indifference to the Society, generally, and the same is probably true in the other states of this region. In Texas, members have voiced approval of *The Journal* and other publications and prospective publications. It seems to be the consensus that the Society is not fulfilling the need for a professional association. The formation of a State Section might partially alleviate this problem.

The membership drives are excellent but far too few wildlife workers are being recruited. There is a need in this region for a professional organization which can eventually evolve a set of standards for members and assist these same members in securing employment which results in remuneration equal to that paid in industry to persons of like training and job responsibility. Since by far the major portion of wildlife workers are employed by some state or Federal agency, this objective will be exceedingly difficult to attain.

Eugene A. Walker
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION VII

Organization of the Canadian Society of Wildlife Biologists (perhaps to be the Canadian Society of Fishery and Wildlife Biologists), the initial development of which was noted in last year's report, is almost complete. Somewhat more than 120 wildlife biologists have pledged themselves to become charter members this year. Fishery biologists have not been in contact with the development of the Society to the same extent, but a means of contacting the majority of them has been worked out and will be followed up in the near future.

Relations of the Canadian Society with the Wildlife Society remain to be worked out after the constitution of the Canadian Society is formally adopted. Suffice it to say now that the objectives of two organizations are largely parallel, except in that the Wildlife Society cannot usefully serve a national purpose in Canada, and persons who have been most active in the formation of the Canadian Society are therefore confident that neither Society will act to the detriment of the other. A long and profitable association is anticipated!

David A. Munro
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION I

This has been an unusual year for the Region. The 1958 Northeast Conference, which is co-sponsored by the Northeast Sections of the Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society, was held in Montreal during January, 1958. As a consequence, this meeting was reported at the 1958 Society meeting.

The 1959 Northeast Conference will be held April 20–22 at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.

The proceedings of the Montreal Conference will be distributed in printed form, through the generosity of Dr. Gustave Prevost and his department, in April.

The Northeast Section has a paid membership of 174 members. The regional membership campaign for 1958 was successful in adding a number of new members, but will be continued into 1959.

Northeast Section officers are: T. R. Samsell, West Virginia, chairman; Glenn L. Bowers, Pennsylvania, vice-chairman; Charles McLaughlin, Massachusetts, vice-chairman; and Philip Barske, Connecticut, secretary-treasurer.

The Region was saddened by the death of Dr. P. F. English of the Pennsylvania State University during the year. "Doc" was an honorary member of the Society.

Roger M. Latham
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION VI

Region VI of The Wildlife Society has had the unique distinction during the past year of adding two new states to the Union. No other region in the history of the Wildlife Society can make such a claim. The eight states of the Far Western Region now stretch from the Arctic Ocean to Mexico, and from the Rocky Mountains half-way across the Pacific Ocean. The difficulties of coordinating Wildlife Society activities over such a far-flung area have been brought home to the Regional Representatives on many occasions, and have prompted a request that the regional boundaries be reconsidered. During the past year, the membership of the Society in the northwest has again requested the formation of a Northwest Region to include the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

The 1958 membership campaign, under the leadership of Lee Yeager, was successfully carried out in the Far Western Region by state membership chairmen, including Howard Leach, Jess Low, Nils Nilsson, Paul Dalke, Lee Kuhn and Hal Buechner. The regional representative assisted through supplying these men with materials and exhortations.

The California Section held its annual meeting at Fresno on February 2 and 3, with 130 members attending. Attendance at this meeting was restricted somewhat by the policy of the California Department of Fish and Game which now limits the numbers of its employees permitted to attend professional meetings. Similarly, travel of Californians to national meetings was severely restricted this year by the peculiar financial restrictions on out-of-state travel imposed by the state government. Despite such restrictions, however, the California Section meeting was considered by all to be outstanding, with the level of the technical papers presented being unusually high. The new president of the California Section is Hank Hjersman, with Paul Berg the new vice-president, and Jack Hiehle, secretary-treasurer.

Raymond F. Dasmann
Regional Representative

REGION IV SECTION MEETS IN COLORADO

The Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society held its second winter technical session and sixth annual business meeting at Colorado State University on February 20 and 21, 1959.

Featured in the Section's technical program was a series of three papers concerned with the use of aerial photographs in game management, given by Paul F. Gilbert, Colorado Game and Fish Department; Harvey Miller, Nebraska Game, Forestation, and Parks Commission; and Kenneth Nicolls, a senior game-management student at Colorado State University.. Dean Medin and Kenneth Porter, graduate fellows in the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, discussed their findings in big-game range studies, and Professor Harold K. Hagen of the Department of Forest Recreation and Wildlife Conservation, spoke on "Trends in Fisheries Education." More than 100 persons were in attendance.

In the business meeting of the Section, plans concerning programs at the time of the annual Big-game Management meetings in Denver, probably in May, and the Fourth Annual Summer Conference, in August, were discussed. Colorado will serve as host state for the Conference, to be held at Pingree Park, location of the Colorado State University Forestry Summer Camp. Facilities will permit the accommodation of family groups.

At the business meeting, Section officers for 1959 were installed. They are Harvey Miller, Nebraska, president; Dave Coleman, Kansas, vice-president; and Glenn Rogers, Colorado, secretary-treasurer.

Lee E. Yeager

"PETE" GREEN SEEKS POSITION

As many of you already know, A. F. C. "Pete" Green, Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, terminated his duties in that position as of April 1, 1959. It is our understanding that he will remain on the job, at least nominally, until in June. In the meantime, he is seeking new employment. If you read *Conservation News* or the *Outdoor News Bulletin*, you have noted the political implications in "Pete's" resignation.

A graduate of the University of Wyoming in 1943, Pete holds a B.S. degree in Game and Fish management. He began his career with the Wyoming Commission in 1947 as a fishery biologist and in 12 years became director in 1955. This should attest to his ability and to the high regard in which he was held by many responsible people in the Game and Fish Commission during that period.

Pete is 44 years old, married and has four children. His address is: 3022 Thomas Ave., Cheyenne, Wyoming.

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—MINNESOTA SECTION

Officers: President, Jack H. Berryman, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; vice-president, James A. Lee, Division of Game and Fish; secretary-treasurer, Robert Jensen, Division of Game and Fish.

Membership: 1958—65; 1959—93. Cash Balance: 1958—$59.32; 1959—$128.38.

Meetings: Six scheduled educational meet-

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION II

The Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society continued important work in several fields largely through appointed committees. These included work on forest game and TSI research programs, mourning dove research, farm game work, water use, and continuation of the cooperative deer disease study. The continued assistance and cooperation given by the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners has been especially appreciated. Considerable attention was given to a proposed cooperative statistical study through the Institute of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College.

Awards were again made for the best paper presented at the previous annual meeting and for the best publication during the year. The first of these went to Charles M. Loveless, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, for his paper entitled "Clipping Study Techniques in Marsh Ecology Investigations" presented at the annual meeting in Mobile. The second went to John L. Sincock and James A. Powell, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, for their paper entitled "An Ecological Study of Waterfowl Areas in Central Florida" appearing in the Transactions of the Twenty-second North American Wildlife Conference.

At the twelfth annual meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky on 20 October, 28 persons were in attendance. President Chester Phelps presided. Minutes of the previous meeting, the Secretary's report and financial statement were heard and adopted. A nominating committee was appointed, and reports of the special and standing committees were heard. Copies of the Secretary's report and of the financial statement are attached.

Both the Section Secretary and the Regional Representative were active in promoting Society membership during the year. In most cases, this work was carried out to a considerable extent by the membership chairman of the individual state.

E. B. Chamberlain, Jr.
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION III

State membership leaders were organized for eight states in an effort to promote further growth and coordination of membership in the region. Representatives for the Region III states were: Glen C. Sanderson, Illinois; W. E. Ginn, Indiana; Lester Faber, Iowa; Ralph Blouch, Michigan; Arnold Erickson, Minnesota; Allen Brohn, Missouri; Kermit Morse, Ohio; and Charles Lemke, Wisconsin. Each representative with his state assistants conducted membership campaigns directed toward all professional workers and interested individuals.

Along with the national drive for membership, Lee Yeager, Chairman of the Membership Committee, was given a considerable amount of assistance.

A Wildlife Society membership desk was set up and operated at the 20th Midwest Wildlife Conference in Columbus, Ohio. A good supply of membership materials were passed out to interested professionals.

During the year, many new matters concerning a program of strengthening the Society came to the front. Several trips were made to meet with groups of Society members to discuss ways and means of upgrading the Wildlife Society and making it a stronger and a more professional body. Considerable progress has been made along these lines in working with the Minnesota Section and they are preparing for Council action and the membership many ideas for consideration.

This particular representative has been pleased with the numerous developments taking place during the 1958 year. The very fact that many people in various quarters are suggesting changes and more action programs from the Society indicates that we are coming into a new era for the organization.

We are a part of a service organization and the sooner the Society is welded into a shape to fulfill the needs and wants of the membership, the more the profession will profit.

It has been a pleasure to serve Region III for the last three years as Regional Representative. Many new ideas and projects have been forthcoming during this period, and I hope they add to the stature of the Wildlife Society and the profession.

Bill T. Crawford
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION IV

Region IV, extending from the International boundary on the north to Oklahoma and New Mexico, is now served by two active Sections of The Wildlife Society. These are the Northwest Section, embracing Montana of Region IV, and the Central Mountains and Plains Section, active in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Section coverage is still inadequate in other parts of the Region, due mainly to distance and lack of proximity to membership centers.

The Northwest Section has emerged during the past five years as a vigorous organization, petitioning the parent Society in 1958 in the interest of formal organization. P. L. Wright, president, and Richard D. Taber, secretary, both of Montana, were elected as Section officers in 1958–59.

Activities in the Central Mountains and Plains Section during 1958–59 involved three main programs. The first was a dinner and short business meeting in Denver on May 26, held in conjunction with the annual Big-game Meetings of the Colorado Game and Fish Department and Federal land-management agencies. Walt Larsen, a noted Colorado hunter just returned from New Zealand, gave an excellent discussion of resource management in that country to the 60-odd Society members present.

The Third Annual Summer Conference of the Section was held at Scott County State Park, Kansas, on August 24–26. The opening program dealt with resource problems and research facilities in the Section area; four technical sessions following consisted of seminars on big game, waterfowl, upland game, and fisheries; and demonstrations of game and fish management techniques, plus several discussions of management specific to given species or areas, completed the program.

A two-day meeting, February 20–21, 1959, held in connection with Foresters' Days at Colorado State University, constituted the third assembly of Section members during the Society year. The sixth annual business meeting, and a formal session devoted to aerial photographs in game management and to big-game range research, made up the programs on this occasion.

During its five years of activity, the Central Mountains and Plains Section has been fortunate in the leadership given by capable officers. Thus, Jack R. Grieb, president; George W. Reynolds, vice-president; and Harvey W. Miller, secretary-treasurer, continued in 1958 the tradition of effectiveness in Section administration that began with its first officers, Wayne W. Sandfort, C. E. Till, Ralph R. Hill, and others. Officers elected for 1959 are Harvey W. Miller, president; Dave Coleman, vice-president; and Glenn Rogers, secretary-treasurer.

The Fourth Annual Summer Conference, with Colorado as host state, is now in preparation. It will probably be held at Pingree Park, using facilities at the Forestry Summer Camp, College of Forestry and Range Management, Colorado State University.

It is impractical to list all whose courtesy and cooperation helped make 1958–59 a good year in Region IV. Phil Wright and Dick Taber, of Montana, have promoted interest in the Northwest Section, as previously stated. Les Berner, Bob Randall, and others have been active in the Dakotas; and Phil Agee, Oliver Gasswint, and Keith Hay, along with Section officers, did much to make the Third Summer Conference a success. The 1958–59 membership campaign was capably handled in their respective states by Mitchell Sheldon, Fletcher Newby, Bill Bailey, Bob Randall, Ken Diem, Dave Coleman, and Les Berner. Finally, I am personally indebted to all named above, and to Ralph R. Hill, Harold W. Steinhoff, Adrey Borell, Cec Williams, and others for helping hands during the Society year.

Lee E. Yeager
Regional Representative

1958 ANNUAL REPORT—REGION V

The Wildlife Society in Region V in 1958 showed some gain over the previous year. There was a general feeling in Texas and Oklahoma to the effect that the Society still does not offer the advantages and services of other professional associations. A more closely knit unit is needed in order to serve the membership to the best advantage.

Membership

The membership drive got off to a late start but reports from Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona indicated that progress was being made. Brochures supplied by Membership Committee Chairman Dr. Lee Yeager were supplied to state representatives in the region, together with membership lists. A report on the membership campaign in the region was forwarded to the committee chairman on February 25, 1959.

State Activities

Members of the Society served on a number of wildlife committees and led important projects in the Region. Dr. W. B. Davis, W. C. Glazener, Dr. Clarence Cottam, Dr. Richard B. Davis, Dr. Paul Hickie, V. W. Lehmann, and Dr. O. C. Wallmo contributed to the wildlife program in Texas through participation on the Technical Committee of Sportsmen's Club of Texas. Drs. Cottam and Davis led numerous endeavors aimed at furthering

to be followed by reports including recommendations in the interest of fish and wildlife resources." After that statement the conversation went somewhat along these lines.

"What are you doing at the present time that is of local interest; are there any current federal projects that would be important to our readers?"

"The U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, is now engaged in a channel-dredging project in the Delaware River between Philadelphia and Trenton. In connection with such projects, solid material from the streambed is removed and deposited elsewhere—usually in some lowlying area nearby."

"And how does your agency fit into the picture?"

I reflected a moment, trying to give due consideration to headline values, and replied, "We are assisting and encouraging the Corps in the selection and preservation of some of the high quality marshes which lie adjacent to the river between Philadelphia and Trenton."

I leaned back, preparing to enjoy the effect of that statement. "Why," he inquired without hesitation, "do you want to preserve marshes?"

Now, questions like that lead to some introspection. How elementary must one become in this case? Hasn't this man even *heard* of the birds and bees? He couldn't be as ignorant as his question would seem to imply. He merely wants me to make a simple statement for the sake of any children who may read his column, and I shall. "A marsh provides habitat of a type indispensable to some forms of wildlife, and extremely important to others."

"What do you call wildlife?"

"Broadly, undomesticated animals."

"What kinds are you concerned about in connection with the local marshes?"

"Those most prominently mentioned are the ducks and muskrats."

Then, while I sat there dumb with shock, he asked, with the innocence of the completely naive, "Why do you want ducks and muskrats?"

To anyone even remotely associated with the wildlife field, such a question is tantamount to "Why do you want a bathroom in your house?" The necessity for an explanation is less than obvious and a place to begin is scarcely apparent. In dealing with children or with adults below average in intelligence, the need for an elementary approach might not seem out of line. The reporter, however, is quite mature and probably somewhat above average in intelligence. Furthermore, he is making his living in association with an agency whose principal business, in which he takes part, is the dissemination of information of a wide variety. The fact that this man, and the water supply expert, and an engineer with whom I talked yesterday, and a large number of other highly intelligent people are uninformed in some of the most elementary aspects of the fish and wildlife field, is an indication that we are talking to ourselves too much and not speaking to the public in terms which they can understand. This is not a case of our wilfully withholding important information. It's a question of an appropriate starting place and method of presentation.

(Excerpt from remarks presented at Fifth Meeting, Delaware Basin Survey Coordinating Committee in Honesdale, Pennsylvania on June 26, 1958 by Benjamin F. Donley, in charge, Trenton Area Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

DESERT BIGHORN COUNCIL MEETING HELD

The third Annual Meeting of the Desert Bighorn Council was held at Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Monument, April 7–10. The National Park Service was the host agency, and about 50 representatives attended from Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and the United Mexican States.

The Council is devoted to the coordination of studies on all phases of the life history, ecology, management, and protection of bighorn sheep occurring in desert or semi-desert regions. The program included papers and discussions on burro competition with bighorn, management techniques, hunting and protection, water relationships and bighorn ecology.

A highlight of the conference was a report by Ralph and Florence Welles on their studies since 1950 on the Nelson bighorn of Death Valley. They have gathered a great wealth of information on the habits and ecology of these animals under the severe climatic conditions of this area and in habitats ranging down to 282 feet below sea level. Their work has been carried out under the auspices of the National Park Service in Mr. Welles' capacity as a Ranger Naturalist and more recently under a professional services contract. Field trips illustrated the nature of their work to the Council members.

Officers elected for the coming year are Warren Kelley of Arizona, chairman; Richard (Bee Seep) Weaver of California, vice-chairman; and Fred Jones of California, secretary-treasurer.

The Fourth Annual Meeting will be held next April at Las Cruces, New Mexico, with Cecil Kennedy of the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge in charge of program arrangements. Proceedings of the first annual meeting are available from Fred L. Jones, Department of Fish and Game, 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento 14, California, for $2. The second and third transactions will be available soon.

C. Gordon Fredine

THE CASE FOR LESS "POLISHING" OF SCIENTIFIC PAPERS BY THEIR AUTHORS

Almost every productive scientist must, at least once, have resented the time that he had to spend in "smoothing up" a paper—time that perhaps could have been better spent upon some new research. I am convinced that he was quite correct in these feelings. In many cases, the results of good thought and research simply have failed to appear in print because of the complex of physical and psychological conditions that permeate the job of making a manuscript acceptable to an editor and his reviewing board. Likewise, many important papers have not come into print until several years have elapsed since their initial writing. Here again, the "final polishing" with all its implications has often been "the straw that broke the camel's back" as far as the author was concerned. Some, and perhaps most people, become completely bored with the seemingly infinite "rehashing" of their work that editors demand. This all too frequently results in their shoving the paper aside "until they have more time." Such situations can only retard the growth of a science.

If we assume (1) that science should advance as rapidly as possible, (2) that scientific papers really do need the polishing the editors demand, and (3) that scientists are, on the average, better at science than literature, then it seems obvious to me that we ought to overhaul our system for publishing the results of thought and research.

I propose that we set up systems similar to the one that follows.

Every organization whose members publish in a particular journal should pay into a "kitty" that would supply funds for hiring a staff of "editors" for the particular journal or cooperating group of journals. These "editors" must be well trained in science and writing and therefore must be well paid for their labor. Their job would be to complete the preparation of papers for publication. Naturally, the papers must be suitable in terms of thought and content for the journal. It is assumed that the papers, when submitted, will be about as ready for publication as those submitted nowadays. In other words, such jobs as redoing tables and rewriting would be the "editor's," not the scientist's. After the editor has "polished" the paper, he would return it to the scientist to check for inaccuracies, omissions and changes of meaning. Having done this, the scientist would return the paper and it would go to press.

In determining criteria for establishing the amount to be paid into the "kitty" by each organization or independent individual, some sort of a scale should be set up that would take into account primarily the amount of time spent by the editors in behalf of each contributor. In addition, however, it would seem only fair that users of the published information should also support the program.

Some of the advantages of such a program may be listed: 1. A maximum of the scientist's time will be available for productive research. 2. Many important papers will be published that formerly would not have been. 3. Papers that the authors would have "put aside until they had more time" will now go directly into print. 4. Since the "editors" will, on the average, be much better and faster writers than the scientist, there will be a net saving of man-hours and papers will get into print faster. 5. The published papers should be better, on the average, than at present. (Let the scientist with literary aspirations go it on his own if he wishes. For every one of him, I daresay that there are a hundred of us who would be more than happy to have someone else do the work.)

It seems to me that by a system such as that described above we could expect a faster advance of knowledge, and this ultimately at no additional, and in fact, at reduced cost because we will be making optimum utilization of the talents of the people involved, scientist and "editor."

Archie S. Mossman

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